

February 1, 2006  
Work Session-Retreat with David Long  
Minutes

Members present

Brady Wooten- Chairman  
Allen Sneed- Vice- Chairman  
Leon Casstevens- Commissioner  
Kim Clark Phillips- Commissioner  
D.C. Swaim- Commissioner

Others Present

Cecil E. Wood- County Manager  
Melinda Vestal-Clerk to the Board  
David Long-Consultant

Chairman Wooten called the recessed meeting back to order.

Mr. Wood introduced David Long and told of his work history.

Ms. Vestal presented a power point presentation on financial history, employment and schools.

David Long discussed the process of the retreat and what he would like to get accomplished.

Mr. Long asked the Board what they felt were the most important issues for the county.

The Board indicated the following:

- Water and sewer
- Economic Development/Diversification
- Tax Base
- Schools
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Facilities
- Land Use/Zoning
- Managing Growth

The Board discussed what makes Yadkin County attractive/assets:

- Location
- Communities
- Transportation system
- Labor force
- Availability of land
- Availability of water
- Natural beauty
- Good public services
- Viticulture
- Lodging

The Board discussed the county's weaknesses:

- Declining tax base
- Lack of infrastructure for water/sewer
- Competition
- Additional public schools infrastructure
- Job skills
- High tax rate
- Public perception
- Public relations with employees and citizens
- Lack of clear vision

The Board decided on the top seven issues:

- Begin a water/sewer system
- Increase the tax base
- Provide additional buildings for the schools
- Water to I-77/Hwy 421
- Middle schools
- Provide and plan for economic development
- Broader look at economic development

The Board discussed how to achieve better communication and cooperation internally with chambers, towns, and other officials. The Board discussed setting up a meeting with the towns to discuss water issues. The Board decided to set the meeting for the end of February.

The Board discussed travel and tourism promotion. The Board suggested coordinating with various groups that promote tourism, work with the State

on better signage, and promote all areas of the county (history, music, farming/fresh produce, old mills and other attractions).

Commissioner Sneed commented that the retreat was very informative and he learned a lot.

Chairman Wooten stated he appreciated David Long coming and helping them focus on the issues of the county.

### **Adjournment**

**\*Commissioner Casstevens made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Swaim second. The Board voted 5-0.**

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Melinda Vestal, Clerk to the Board